

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, April 10, 2003**

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Carl Seitz, Paul Pronold, Alicia Silva, and Sandy Wolff. **Absent:** Mareth Kipp.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Ernie Messinger, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Economic Support Coordinator Sue Schmitz, Intake & Support Services Manager Don Maurer, Affiliated Computer Services Waukesha W-2 Operations Manager Jane Batha, Affiliated Computer Services Regional Program Director Gary Rudzianis, County Board Supervisor Dick Manke, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Pat Voss, Wisconsin Correctional Services Supervisor Holly Patzer, and Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz.

### **Approve Minutes of March 13 and 27, 2003**

**MOTION:** Jeskewitz moved, second by Wolff to approve the minutes of 3-13. Motion carried 6-0.

**MOTION:** Jeskewitz moved, second by Pronold to approve the minutes of 3-27. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Herro said the Executive Committee, at their next meeting, will hear an update on the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council, review additional UW-Extension grants, and vote on Chapter 4 revisions to the County Code.

### **Review Correspondence**

A fact sheet on Protect the Planet from Greg Urban, Executive Director of the Waukesha Training Center, was given to the committee as requested by Esler.

### **Update on the W-2 Program**

Rudzianis gave history on W-2 as to how and when it began in Waukesha County. Staff distributed information on minimum performance requirements and ACS's (formerly Curtis & Associates) performance ratings, AFDC vs. W-2, the Children First Program, employment supports (childcare and medical assistance), food stamps, training, and partnerships. Concurrent with state evaluation efforts, and as anticipated, the majority of former recipients continue to enjoy income growth. Average income available to self-sufficient families is \$18,976. This is a 123% increase over the \$8,500 per year that a typical AFDC family received from cash grants and food stamps.

Rudzianis said the state requires a placement rate of 35% and Waukesha County's placement rate exceeds that minimum at 41%. He noted that the caseload has gone up over the last couple of years because of a downturn in the economy, albeit a mild one in this area. There were 1,118 families on the caseload in 1995, 37 families in 1999, and 70 families in 2002. In 1997 there were 472 childcare cases and 2,072 medical assistance cases. In 2002 there were 902 childcare cases and 4,665 medical assistance cases. There are about 30 ACS staff located at the Workforce Development Center – some are employees and some are contracted.

The Children First Program is a W-2 component that offers employment and training services to non-custodial parents who aren't paying child support. Research indicates that Children First parents double the amount of child support they pay as a result of participating in the program. Total 2002 enrollments were 336, there were 272 placements, the average full time wage was \$10.15, and the retention wage was 65%.

Unemployed adults without minor dependants are not eligible for W-2 cash benefits but can qualify for food stamps. In 2002 the Food Stamp, Employment and Training caseload grew to the highest level since the inception of W-2 due to the weakened economy. There were 420 enrollments in 2002 and 225 placements. The average placement wage was \$8.75.

Rudzianis said the original two-year, four-month contract several years ago was just under \$10 million. He noted that the State has been reducing their funding ever since and rightly so because of the caseload reduction. With the current contract, the state has found other ways to use that money. One way has been with childcare and this caseload has increased over the years. They no longer give out money in the form of a check. Instead, they provide services that target helping these people become as self-sufficient as possible.

Esler asked why the per family benefit has increased 40% over a three year period. Rudzianis said the amount of the grant hasn't changed but early in the program there were more sanctions. The base amount that people qualify for hasn't changed since the start of the program. Esler referred to the first contract and he stated that \$5 million of the \$10 million, 28-month allocation was returned to the State. On an annualized basis the allocation is over \$2 million. Monthly cash benefits paid to 37 families in January of 1999 is shown on the handout as \$16,837 paid. On an annualized basis, this amount is about \$200,000 or about 10% of the State allocation. Esler asked what happened to the other 90% of the funding? Rudzianis said caseloads were extremely high in the early months of the program (pre-1999). Also, there is a 15% administrative cap on profit – they can't keep all the money (State) they don't spend, contrary to what some people believe.

#### **Review of the Restorative Justice Program – Current Applications and Future Potentials**

Various information on the program were distributed. Voss noted that all programs to be reviewed today are funded with federal and / or state funding. There is a total of \$1.3 million in contracts. Today, they will be reviewing approximately \$568,000 in contracts. Restorative Justice focuses on restoring the relationship between victim and offender and community healing in the aftermath of crimes. Restorative Justice encourages and facilitates dialogue and responsibility for offending behavior. Justice seeks solutions which promote repair, reconciliation, and reassurance that lead to public safety. It's just as important to recognize who needs to be confined and removed from the community. Voss went on to review the differences in principles between Criminal (Retributive) Justice and Restorative Justice, and other restorative justice programs from different parts of the country as outlined in his handouts.

Voss said the Home Detention Program provides Juvenile Court with a viable alternative to confining juveniles in detention. It provides a great deal of accountability for the offender while allowing juveniles to remain at home while they await their court hearing. Most importantly, this program enables juveniles to continue or reconnect with their schooling while allowing them to remain with their family. It allows the juvenile offender to demonstrate to the court that they could function in the community without being confined and without offending again. In 2002, this program served 227 juveniles. There are three full-time staff people involved that we contract for and the budget is around \$150,000. The average caseload for each of the three workers is about ten cases at any given time. Patzer noted that truancy rates decrease dramatically for those involved with this program.

Voss said the Restitution Program includes both monetary restitution and community service. Wisconsin Correctional Service (WCS) works at getting those who are unemployed employed, and if they have a job, WCS encourages them to take responsibility for making their restitution payments. In 2002, the restitution program served 245 juveniles and the community service program served 347 juveniles, with some being referred to both. In 2002, a total of \$69,876 in restitution was paid by the offenders which is about 73% of the total ordered. That year's figure was a little low and the average is around 80%.

Patzer said the Mediation Program is now referred to as Victim/Offender Counseling because it's about dialogue and the offender taking responsibility to the victim. The victim's job is to express and explain the impact of the crime in their lives. A trained mediator is present, as are the parents of the offenders, in some cases. Cases are screened first to determine if the program is appropriate. The victim must agree to meet in order for the counseling to occur as it's completely voluntary on their part.

Voss said the Section Work Program is almost four years old and was originally created to ease crowding in the Juvenile Center on the weekends. Patzer said the program is done in a group with two adults present at all times. Juveniles are transported by van and work with perhaps 1 or 2 of 22 organizations participating in the program. Work includes trash pick-up, putting up Christmas decorations, etc. but most of all they help senior citizens with yard work through the Interfaith agency. These juveniles are there because they violated an original court order. Patzer said this program has turned out to be quite successful. Voss advised that it has saved 679 days of secure detention and over \$73,000. The budget for this program is around \$44,000. Patzer noted that there's a similar work program for adults at the Huber facility.

Voss said the Intensive Tracking Program also involves supervision and is designed to replicate the structure of an out-of-home placement. Staff carry a very small caseload with an average staff/client ratio of 1 to 6. It involves face-to-face contact for as long as two hours per day. Staff are on-call 24 hours a day. The annual contract cost for this program with WCS is \$203,988 with a daily cost of \$28 per day, per youth. Voss went on to review cost savings associated with this program which, in 2002, totaled \$261,492.

**Discuss State Budget Impacts on Health & Human Services**

Staff reviewed State budget impacts on Health & Human Services as Administration Director Cummings discussed at the April 8 County Board meeting and some recent developments after that.

**MOTION:** Jeskewitz moved, second by Seitz to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva  
Secretary